plants should be pinched when small to insure good branching. Always leave the last leaf node on the outside so that the new growth will point outward.

If you are handy at grafting, five or six varieties of hibiscus may be grafted onto one root stock. You can imagine how lovely it would be to see all these different colors and forms in bloom on a single plant. Perhaps someday a commercial grower will put such a grafted plant on the market.

Hibiscus pests are few and far between on the indoor plant. Sometimes aphis or red spiders will creep in from outside or be brought in on other plants or cutflowers. We have had no trouble with bud-drop on any variety we have grown inside as yet, however, we have had leaves to turn yellow and always this was caused by lack of water. It is easy to forget to water plants, but they will remind you. If the plant drops its leaves, simply prune it back some and a lovely new crop will come forth without further delay.

If you use a well-balanced plant food you may expect to have blossoms that are well colored and quite large. We don't like to feed too much nitrogen as that gives us too much foliage and not enough flowers.

Fluorescent lights hung as close to the plants as possible without toughing gives glossier foliage and a deeper color to the blossoms. We think that the blossoms last longer under the lights as well.

Since hibiscus must have a great deal of light, the fluorescent lights come in handy to supplement that indoor light. We use fixtures which hold two 40-Watt daylight tubes - the daylight colored light being on the blue side, promotes stockier, shorter

stems which is desirable on the indoor plant. These lights were left on around 16 hours a day. A single row of plants were placed under the lights, and the row was 48 inches long. This unit was by a window as well, for the fluorescent unit would not be enough light if used alone.

If you grow these tropical beauties indoors you will not have to fight the battle of nematodes, droughts, insects, frosts or lack of any elements necessary for superior plants as the atmosphere and soil will be under your own control, and you will always be happier for having had hibiscus in your home.

.....

This article was furnished by Mrs. Evelyn C. Nichols, Laurel, Maryland. Mrs. Nichols has been creating interest in the in-door culture of hibiscus through magazine articles and is also a student of the botanical history. We again apologize for editing her article slightly in the interest of brevity.

.....

NEW REGISTRATIONS - continued page 16 -

"Mrs. Weston Walker", by L. K. Thompson, Bartow, Florida.

.....